

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02438 191814Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
/045 W

-----127292 191820Z /46

P 191540Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3283

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2438

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJECT: REPORTED DEATH BY TORTURE OF ANA GONZALEZ

REF: STATE 145580

1. ANA GONZALEZ WAS AN EMPLOYEE OF CASA JIMENEZ, AN ASUNCION DRY GOODS STORE. ON JANUARY 31, THE STORE DISMISSED HER FOR REASONS UNKNOWN. AN EYEWITNESS SAW A PERSON BELIEVED TO BE A PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMAN TAKE ANA GONZALEZ AWAY IN A CAR IN FRONT OF THE STORE IN THE EARLY EVENING OF JANUARY 31. HER BROTHER BELIEVED SHE WAS TAKEN TO INVESTIGATIONS POLICE.

2. THE SAME WITNESS REPORTS THAT ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 12, SHE WAS PERMITTED TO VISIT ANA GONZALEZ IN THE RED CROSS HOSPITAL, ALONG WITH ANA'S BROTHER. SHE WAS UNDER GUARD AND WAS KEPT IN A ROOM IN THE HOSPITAL NORMALLY USED FOR SUPPLIES AND NOT FOR PATIENTS. THE EYE-WITNESS SPOKE WITH ANA WHO SAID SHE HAD BEEN CRUELLY TORTURED BUT THAT SHE HAD NOT TOLD THEM, OR CONFESSED, TO ANYTHING. SHE ALSO SAID THAT SHE DID NOT EXPECT TO SURVIVE THE ORDEAL. THE EYEWITNESS VISUALLY VERIFIED THAT ANA HAD BRUISES AND A BROKEN JAW AMONG OTHER INJURIES. ON FEBRUARY 15, AT 11:00 P.M., PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE THE POLICE TURNED OVER THE BODY OF ANA GONZALEZ TO HER FAMILY AT THE RED CROSS HOSPITAL IN A SEALED COFFIN. THEY ORDERED THAT SHE BE BURIED BEFORE SUNRISE WITHOUT OPENING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02438 191814Z

THE COFFIN AND WITHOUT RELIGIOUS RITES. THEY ALSO WARNED THE FAMILY TO KEEP SILENT AND TOLD THEM TO LEAVE PARAGUAY IMMEDIATELY UNDER THE THREAT OF REPRISALS. WE ARE TOLD THEY HAVE ALL LEFT THE COUNTRY.

3. THE MOTIVATION BEHIND ANA GONZALEZ'S DEATH IS UNCLEAR EVEN TO THOSE WHO KNEW HER OR TO HER FAMILY. SOME SPECULATE IT WAS

AN ACT OF REVENGE BECAUSE OF A DISPUTE AT HER PLACE OF WORK. OTHERS BELIEVE SHE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BUT THERE IS NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THIS. HOWEVER, IF SHE WAS BEING DETAINED FOR ALLEGED ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, WE DOUBT THAT SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN PUT INTO THE RED CROSS HOSPITAL BUT INSTEAD WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THE POLICE HOSPITAL WHERE THE POLICE HAVE BETTER CONTROL. WE ALSO FIND NO REASON WHY THE VISIT BY HER BROTHER AND THE EYEWITNESS WAS ALLOWED.

4. MORE LIKELY, FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE, PERSONS, APPARENTLY MEMBERS OF THE POLICE, WERE EITHER HIRED OR ORDERED TO TORTURE ANA GONZALEZ AS AN ACT OF PRIVATE VENGEANCE. HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY SPECULATION AND WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE WAS TORTURED TO GIVE EVIDENCE OF A NEW POLITICAL "PLOT".

5. WE HAVE RAISED THIS CASE WITH A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE. HE HAS PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND LET US KNOW THE RESULT OF HIS INQUIRIES. THIS IS A PRELIMINARY REPORT OF INFORMATION WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS DEVELOPED DIRECTLY. WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.
WHITE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCIO2438
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780255-0612
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780646/aaaabnpc.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d50a4186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 145580
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2304964
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED DEATH BY TORTURE OF ANA GONZALEZ
TAGS: SHUM, PA, (GONZALEZ, ANA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d50a4186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014